SPASTICS NEWS

The Spastics Society

DECEMBER 1972

New Series, Price 2½p

A DAY OUT WITH THE STARS FOR ELAINE

IT was an exciting day for Elaine Jones, 9, of Wainford Close, Wimbledon, when she was taken by car to Broadcasting House, and into the Pete Murray Show studio in her wheelchair, and there asked to present an enormous birthday cake covered in blue icing to Dickie Henderson in celebration of his 50th birthday.

Elaine who is a quadriplegic spastic and her mother had only a few days' warning—and the whole idea was kept a complete surprise from Dickie Henderson himself.

"He expected the cake would be presented to him privately and quietly, but instead of that we all crept outside the studio door while he played a few records, and then we all burst in singing 'Happy Birthday' ", said Mrs. Jones. "He seemed quite overwhelmed, and I think he was really pleased that his birthday was remembered".

Elaine, wearing a white polo-necked jumper and bright red pinafore top, sat next to Dickie for most of the time. "Pete Murray and Dickie Henderson made everyone feel so much at home, that Elaine wasn't at all nervous" Mrs. Jones said. Afterwards Elaine and her mother were taken on a tour of the BBC and in the canteen were able to recognise quite a few famous faces.

Elaine is pictured in the studio with Pete Murray, Dickie Henderson, and the birthday cake gift from fellow members of the Stars Organisation for Spastics. More about Dickie and the S.O.S. on page 10.

Tribute to voluntary workers

A remarkable tribute to the way in which The Spastics Society's voluntary workers had helped transform conditions for the disabled was paid by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Social Services, when he spoke at the Society's 20th annual general meeting in London in November. He told the hundreds of delegates: "By your pressure, by your pioneering, by your leadership, by your contribution, Britain is on the way to being the most civilised country in the world in the care of the disabled and handicapped.

This had also been made possible, he said, because as in the past, the family bore the main burden of the care of the disabled, and he pledged that families would increasingly receive the support they deserved.

Sir Keith praised Britain's voluntary organisations for their indispensable services and the way in which they had educated public opinion to the needs of the less for-

Cont. on Page 7

Sir Keith at the A.G.M.

Spastics News plans colourful start to 21st birthday year

IN January 1973, The Spastics Society will be celebrating its 21st anniversary, and Spastics News will mark the proud occasion with a special birthday issue. The paper will have extra pages, and for the first time, many of them will be in full colour.

Here you will read about the founder members who, horrified at the lack of educational, care and training opportunities for spastic children, founded the Society with a £5 note and a burning determination to give a chance in life to the unfortunates who suffer one of life's cruellest afflictions.

You will learn how they did it—and how the Society grew from the concern of a few crusaders into one of the world's leading organisations in the care of the handicapped.

We will tell you about the children who were the living reason for the Society's formation. How the Daily Mirror lent a hand. How life has treated spastics who are also 21 in January. What the Society has achieved and what it plans for the future. How spastics have taken up the challenge of their lives and won through to a remarkable list of successes. About the vital part played by the Spastics Pool. And pictures, pictures and more pictures

All this, and much more, in the issue of Spastics News which everyone who cares about the needs of spastics will want to read and keep.

As a result it will be the ideal publicity medium to present to the decision makers in your community; to friends and neighbours, in fact to anyone who has a caring concern for their less fortunate fellow citizens.

We are doing our part to make this the best issue ever. Your part comes in ordering extra copies of Spastics News to spread the message, and get the anniversary year off to a fine start.

In spite of the extra size, and the colour pages, the price remains as low as ever. Send orders for extra copies as soon as possible to: The Circulation Clerk, Spastics News, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W1N 4EQ. If you would like to take out a year's subscription, or if you haven't renewed your old one (remember we can't send out reminder notices because of cost) the price is only 60 pence including postage.

Ken Sykes, of Huddersfield, Yorkshire, and his alsatian Margo would be a formidable asset to the security staff of any large firm. Margo is a highly-trained guard dog, ready to leap into action at the slightest command from her master.

Ken is a spastic who had difficulty in finding a job, and when he bought Margo as a puppy he decided to train her in obedience so that they would work together as security guards. They went on a course with a firm specialising in training guard dogs up to police standards.

But Ken was still unable to find work, although he has written applications to dozens of firms in the area. Most of the firms were sympathetic, but not a single offer of work was forthcoming,

So Ken and Margo are still waiting . . .

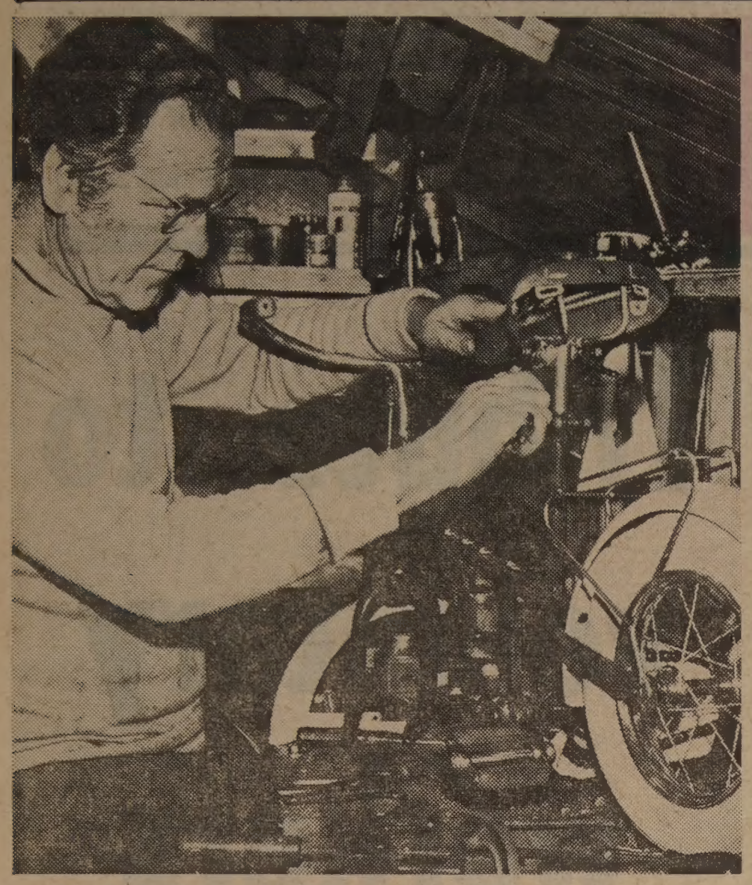
Picture by courtesy of Huddersfield Daily Examiner.

A PROUD moment captured by the camera in the picture below for spastic Mr. Adrian Wright who is being congratulated on his election to The Spastics Society's Executive Council.

Welcoming him to membership of the Society's governing body is Mr. Alex Moira, a Vice-Chairman, and founder member of the Society. Looking on are Council members Mr. John Grenier, and Dr. Margaret Griffiths.

Mr. Wright, who is 46, is a solicitor, and the first spastic member of the Council for 15 years. His election at the Society's annual general meeting in London on November 4th, was widely welcomed, particularly by members of the '62 Clubs for spastics of which Mr. Wright has been chairman since 1967.

He is also an active committee member of the Bristol Spastics Association, and is also involved with many other local charities. His first-hand experience of the problems of spastics, and his firm belief that the handicapped must take a part in the planning of services to help them, will be of immense value to the Society.



Mr. Fred Cleaver of Peterborough restores old bikes in his spare time and donates the profits to spastics. It all started when Mr. Cleaver rescued an old cycle destined for the scrap heap, took it home to repair and sold it. His wife who is on the committee of Peterborough and District Spastics Society, suggested that he gave the money to the charity and the idea developed from there.

Once the word got round, spare parts came rolling in and now Mr. Cleaver has enough work to occupy most of the winter when the evenings are too dark for his favourite hobby of golf.

He has so far sold five bikes and raised about £17 for Group funds.

Picture by courtesy of Peterborough Standard

£12,000 for S.O.S. from "sell out" pop concert

THIS Year's Wembley Pop Music Festival, a sell-out on both nights, was attended by over 20,000 fans. The two concerts were sponsored by the Daily Express and raised £12,000 for the Stars Organisation for Spastics.

All the entertainers gave their services free, and the pop group Slade flew over from a European tour especially to top the Saturday-night bill. They were supported by Blackfoot Sue and Vigrass and Osborne.

On Sunday, the idols of the fans were Rod Stewart and the Faces who were followed by the Pink Fairies and New York Dolls. Other personalities who appeared included film actress Julie Ege and disc jockeys Ed "Stewpot" Stewart and Emperor Roscoe.

Progress on shops hit by rates shock

SPASTICS Gift Shops are proving to be a developing and worthwhile means of fund raising, and such rapid progress has been made over the last six months that we now have 51 shops trading compared with 27 at the beginning of this financial year.

Gift shops provide a two-way benefit, both to the charity and the public, and, in addition, they are not a "one off" event, but can supply a consistent source of income.

We find that the people involved in running our shops enjoy the work immensely. It gives them an opportunity for doing something worthwhile, and they enjoy meeting the varied customers. Probably it is true to say that, whatever their age, most people enjoy "playing shop."

Our shops, like other charity shops, sell second-hand clothing and bric-a-brac. We are almost entirely dependant on the generosity of the general public in supplying goods for sale, and without this continuing support we could not run gift shops at all. We like to think that our shops are interesting and offer a selection of second-hand goods at reasonable prices and, indeed, satisfy a very definite need in the community.

Another important aspect of the shops is that they can be used as a means of advertising and promoting the Society's cause. This is achieved with informative displays and literature, and by selling goods made by spastics at home, and cards printed by spastics.

Finding shops

Finding premises is not easy as this is now a very competitive field. A number of our shops are obtained on what we call a temporary rent-free basis. This means that the owners have kindly agreed to allow us use of their shop until it is either sold or let, on the condition that we pay all expenses resulting from our occupation.

This type of temporary shop offers no security of tenure as, if it is sold or let, it can be lost at any time without much prior notice. On the other hand, these shops can be extremely profitable as usually we do not have to pay any rent. And by lending us his shop, the owner can do himself a bit of good as we will be keeping his otherwise empty premises warm and in good condition, as well as paying our share of the rates.

The other type of shops which we have are those on a leasehold or licence basis where we have to pay rent, be it full or nominal. With these we are likely to have some security of tenure, and we can also be more selective about the site. However, we have to be careful to ensure that these shops will be a good business proposition, as our outgoings are higher.

Customers at spastics' shops all over the country can now carry away their purchases in an attractive polythene bag which has been specially designed for the Society.

It has an eye-catching modern pattern in cerise pink on white which incorporates the figure of a spastic child with the words "Thank You for Helping Spastics", and "Support Your Local Spastics' Shop".

The bags will be sold at 3p each from stands bearing the slogan "Make your Load a Little Lighter and a Spastic's Life a Little Brighter".

We like to keep our shops as appealing and functional as possible, but it is impossible to lay down any hard and fast rules about layout, display and pricing techniques, as our shops come in all shapes and sizes, and numbers of helpers vary. However, there are certain basic principles for all shops. Window displays are vital and, where possible, windows should be filled with interesting bric-a-brac such as jewellery, ornaments, gadgets, and china. Goods like these catch the interest of people walking by, and might persuade them to come into the shop and buy.

Window displays should be built up three dimensionally, and not laid out flat on the base of the windows. If necessary, boxes covered in coloured paper can be used to stand goods on, giving an appearance of depth and making a window look full with relatively few items.

Biggest sales

Biggest sales are in clothing —anything from wedding dresses to carpet slippers—and it is important to departmentalise the goods as much as possible to make it easier for the customer to find what she is looking for. Larger garments, such as coats, suits, dresses, trousers, shirts, blouses, and so on, should be displayed on hangers and rails, and this merchandise should form a complete and separate section within the shop.

On the promotional side, we are already using a standardised "Spastics Shop" signboard, and a selection of posters conveying such messages as "Please bring a gift" and "Opening as a Spastics Shop on . . . " And we will introduce shortly a versatile constructional system for building window displays.

Concerned

The one aspect of the shop operation which has become very depressing and is causing us much concern is the current attitude of local authorities in failing to grant our shops rating relief. Until very recently, we could invariably expect relief of at least 50 per cent from rates under section 40 of the 1967 General Rate Act. However, the Association of Municipal Corporations has recently issued a paper to all local authorities giving counsel's opinion on this subject, the conclusion of which is that charities are not entitled to either discretionary or mandatory relief from rates.

The unfortunate consequence of this is that less money can be made available for helping spastics — those who need it most. It should be emphasised that payment of full rates represents in many cases the largest item of cost in the running of gift shops, and consequently the refusal to grant relief will undoubtedly have a devastating effect. So much so, that we will in some cases be forced to shut down some of our existing shops, and reject shops which we might otherwise have opened.

JOHN TOUGH, Head of Marketing

Picture below shows cheerful helpers at the Barnsley Shop

A dream of a home

Pictured above watching a demonstration of a Continental light fitting at the show flat viewing are, from left to right: Mr. R. A. Nummey, Deputy Director, Social Work, City of Glasgow; Councillor Agnes Patrick, Convenor Social Work and Health Committee, Glasgow; Mr. Ian Fraser, Glasgow's deputy Town Clerk; Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, The Spastics Society's Assistant Director, Services; Councillor Janet Browning, of Glasgow's Social Work and Health Committee; Mr. Alex Moira, Chairman of Habinteg, and a Vice-Chairman of the Society; Mr. Robert Gibson, Assistant City Chancellor, Glasgow; and Councillor Peter Rigby, member of Habinteg.

Officials see first Habinteg show flat

TOP officials from Glasgow Corporation and the new towns of Warrington, Milton Keynes and Peterborough, recently visited the show flat at the Haringey, London, site of the first ever integrated housing project of is kind in Britain. The flat is part of a development by Habinteg, The Spastics Society sponsored housing association, which aims to provide specially-designed homes for the disabled within the community so that the handicapped and their families can truly integrate into normal society.

The show flat, which will accommodate two people, is one of 17 especially designed for the handicapped or for families with a disablement problem. It was enthusiastically received by the civic visitors.

Adjustable light fittings and special foldaway bathroom aids from Scandinavia, not yet available in this country, were some of the highlights of the show flat. Adjustable kitchen cupboards and worktops from Sweden, and eye-level cookers and hob units from France, have been included to lighten the load of the disabled housewife, or any other handicapped members of the family. There are easy-opening doors and light switches, heating controls, and even fuse boxes, have been placed at wheelchair level.

The 17 houses in Moira Close will be linked by an electronic call system to the Warden's house, and care staff will be available to meet the special needs of the disabled tenants.

Moira Close, named after the Association's Chairman, Mr. Alex Moira, is Habinteg's initial but modest contribution to the housing need, not only for disabled people, but for society in general. The £500,000 project of 58 units comprising flats, maisonettes and houses, is due for occupation early in 1973. Tenants for this unique development are currently being interviewed, and the acute need is shown in the Association's short list of potential tenants, which is more than 16 times over-prescribed with an even greater demand for the smaller homes

Similar projects to the Haringey scheme are being undertaken in many of the new towns, and it is hoped that the Association's aims will soon be realised as far afield as Glasgow. In all, Habinteg has more than 23 schemes at the negotiation or planning stage.

The Association sets out to meet the needs of a wide spectrum of disability and is not confined to the special needs of spastics.

Christmas presents to bring years of pleasure

Occupational therapist Anne Richardson chooses toys for spastic children

WITH Christmas only a few weeks away, many parents will be thinking of buying toys for their handicapped children, and as we have had many enquiries in the past about what to choose, we thought it would be helpful for you to have some suggestions for particularly suitable playthings. The toys suggested are only a small selection of what is on the market, but they will give you some idea of what to look for. It is difficult to say exactly what would be the best toy for a spastic child, since it is important to consider the stage the child has reached, how much his hands and balance are affected, if his hearing and sight are impaired and — as important as anything else— his likes and dislikes.

Obviously the toy must be strong, well-made, non-toxic, and at the right stage of development for the child. Unfortunately, many toys in this category tend to be expensive, but handicapped youngsters usually play with toys longer than other children, so if something lasts well it probably works out cheaper in the long run.

First, this is what to avoid when choosing toys: Construction sets and jigsaws with small fiddly pieces. Plain, natural wood toys, designed, I suspect, to attract the adult, but not as attractive to children as bright colours. Lotto or dominoes with muddly, detailed pictures printed on thin card that is difficult to pick up. Cars if all you can do is push them up and down. Beads for threading with tiny holes. Fragile plastic toys that are easily broken by a clumsy hand.

Where to buy the toys—all the following have catelogues.

Galt—there are many small shops stocking Galt toys. You can find your nearest shop, or order by post from: Galt Toys, P.O. Box No. 2., Cheadle, Cheshire. (Minimum order by post £4).

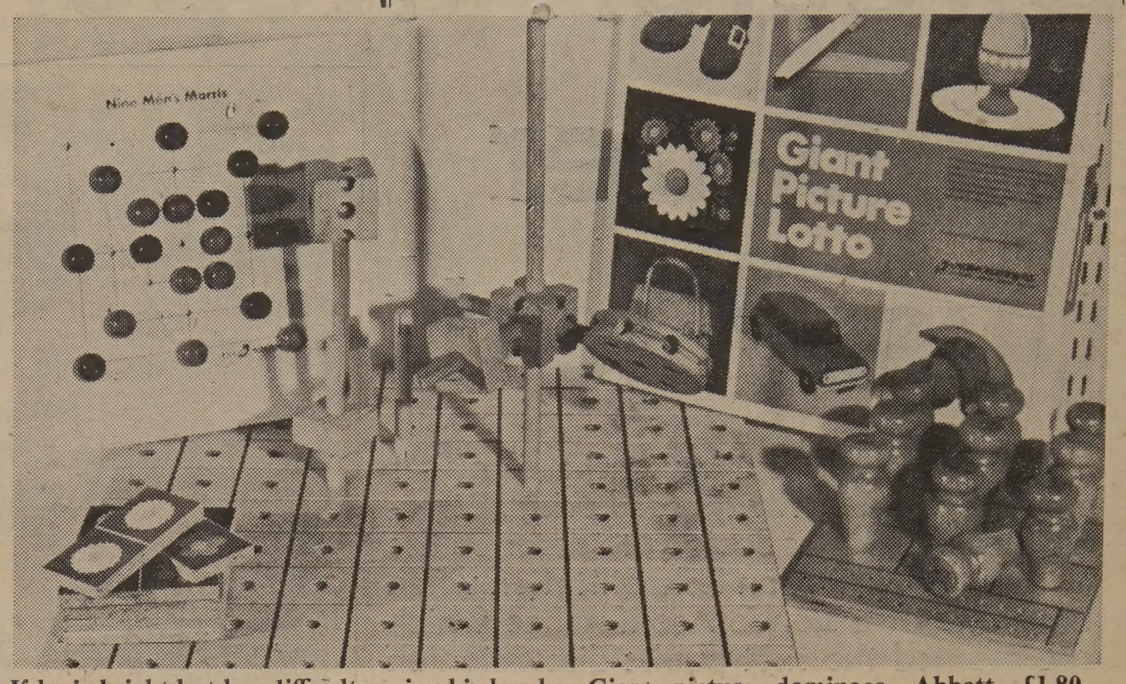
Abbatt—again there are many smaller shops. Find your nearest stockist or order by post from: P.O. Box 57, High Wycombe, Bucks.

Hamleys—have a mail order service. Details from Hamleys Ltd., Regent Street, London W.1.

Oxfam—Mail Order from Oxfam Cards & Gifts, 247 Banbury Road, Oxford.

Mothercare—many shops or use Mother-care-by-Post service from Mothercare Ltd., Cherry Tree Road, Watford, Herts.

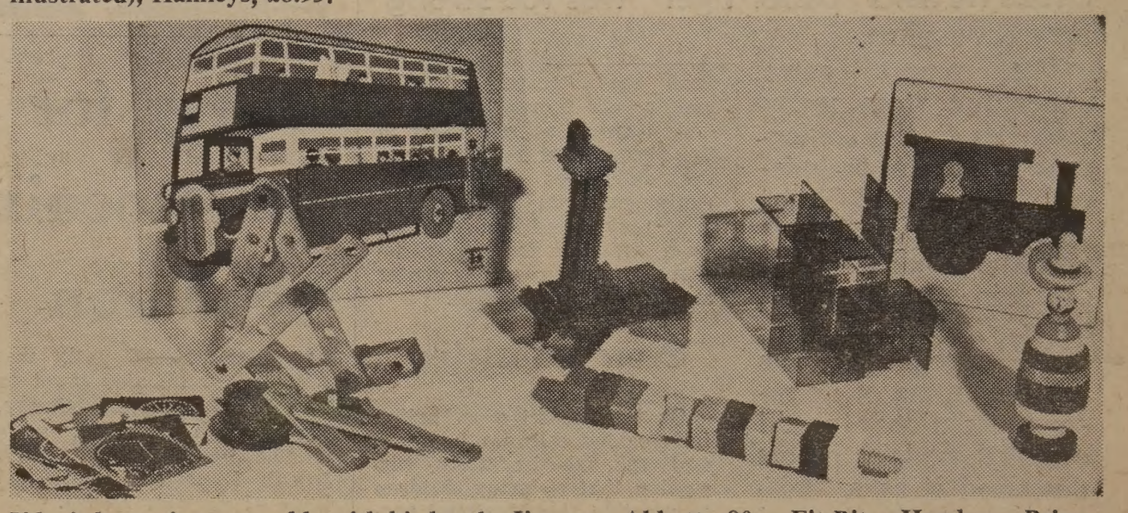
E.S.A.—Order by post or collect from: Educational Supply Association Ltd., School Materials Division, P.O. Box 22, Pinnacles, Harlow, Essex.



If he is bright but has difficulty using his hands: Giant picture dominoes, Abbatt, £1.80. Giant picture lotto, ESA, £1.25. Connector and Grid Board, Abbatt, £1.80 upwards. Nine Mens Morris, ESA, £1.67½. Large Noughts and Crosses, ESA, £1.62. Chinese Chequers (not illustrated), Hamleys, £8.95.

If he loves to fit things in, and is beginning to move around: First train, Abbatt, £1.99. Posting Box, Galt, £1.70. E.P. Form Puzzle, Hamleys, £1.15. Magnetic Board (not illustrated), Galt, 95p. Pop Up toy, Galt, £1.35. Abacus, Abbatt, £1.70.

If he is at the stage of putting everything in his mouth give him something interesting to feel, look at, and hear, such as: Spring bird mobile in three sizes, Hamleys, 40p, 50p & £1.50. Plastic cot mobile, Mothercare, £1.10. Baby mirror, Mothercare, 65p. Sleigh Bells (a rattle suitable for older children), Hamleys, 35p. Letts Play series of rattles. Pink and red windchimes, (not illustrated) Oxfam, 90p. Kiddicraft Cradle Play (not illustrated) Hamleys, £1.10p.



If he is becoming more able with his hands: Jigsaws, Abbatt, 80p. Fit-Bits, Hamleys, Price according to size. Play Plax, Hamleys, £1.35. Ring Figures, Galt, 68p. Screwing Rods, Galt & Kiddicraft 83p. and 87p. Stickle Bricks, Hamleys, £1.35. Super Snap, Galt, 63p. Finger Puppets, (not illustrated), Abbatt, 69p. & 83p. per 6.

If he likes to just sit and watch, can concentrate for short periods of time, and is just beginning to learn shape and size: Merit Butterfly Ball, Abbatt, £1.50. Kooga Round Music Box, —made of special luminous plastic that can be seen by partially sighted children. Hamleys, £2.50. Kiddicraft Bath Harbour, Hamleys, £1.17. Come Back Roller, Mothercare, 60p. Marble Run—also suitable for older children (not illustrated), Galt, £4.80. Abbatt Picture Tray jigsaw, street, zoo, farmyard, seaside, Hamleys, Abbatt, £1.36.

Michael wins trophy – and acceptance from his workmates

MICHAEL Everitt, 21, a deaf and dumb spastic from birth, has proved that it is not only possible for someone with his type of handicap to hold down a job, but actually to join in team competitions along with his workmates.

Michael, who has worked at the F. Wright shoe factory in Kettering since he was 19, was recently a member of the winning team in the factory skittles league—and he has a trophy to prove it. He played every game for his department in the league and didn't lose a single match.

Since Michael has worked at the factory he has become much more self-confident. "He thinks a lot more for himself," says his father, adding, "I take him everywhere I go. Some parents are inclined to hide their handicapped children, but I'm very much against that."

Mr. G. W. Dickenson, the factory manager, who helped to find Michael the job, says the firm was glad to take him on. And Mr. Dickenson doesn't count Michael's own breakthrough as the biggest success of the venture. "The men's reaction to him is probably the biggest success we have."' At first no one had any idea how the other workers would react. Now he has been accepted by management, staff and workers alike . . . as is proved by his inclusion in the skittles team.

APPEAL LAUNCHED FOR "TALKING BOOKS" CHARITY

A CHARITY has been launched which could open up a whole new world of knowledge and entertainment to the severely disabled. The organisation is the National Library of Talking Books for the Handicapped. This is quite separate from Talking Books for the Blind which has been in operation since 1935.

The new service is aimed to help physically handicapped people who are unable to turn the pages of conventional books. It could be a boon to spastics with good hearing but poor hand control.

A varied list of titles has been recorded onto tape cartridges which will play for up to 13 hours on a specially-designed reproducer. If necessary, this can be incorporated into a POSSUM Environment Controller.

The cartridges cannot be used on a standard tape-recorder and the special reproducer costs £36, plus £9 for a year's supply of cartridges (including postage). Many severely handicapped people will obviously be unable to afford this, but it is hoped that local authorities and voluntary organisations may be persuaded to help with the cost.

At a reception held in London to launch the newly-registered charity, Major Frank Clarke, Chairman of the Council of Management, spoke of a pilot scheme set up in 1967, since when a readership of about 600 disabled people had been built up.

He went on:-

"We are today launching a double appeal. First, we ask all those who work in the Social Services and welfare organisations and who have funds at their disposal to get these talking books to the handicapped people in their care by finding and allocating the money that is needed. Secondly, we are asking for donations to the library, whether to pay for membership on behalf of someone known to you, or to donate to the general fund of charity for the benefit of all other members.

Anybody interested in the scheme should contact:- National Library of Talking Books for the Handicapped, 49, Great Cumberland Place, London, W1H 7LH. Tel.: 01-262 1966.

Applications for library membership should be accompanied by a certificate signed by a doctor, welfare officer or other responsible official dealing with handicapped people.

ANNE PLUMBER

ARSENAL FOOTBALL FOR MICHAEL

CARL DEAN, a second-year pupil at Enfield Grammar School, Middlesex, has been presented with a football signed by the Arsenal team. This was his prize, for raising £34.75, the largest individual amount collected from a recent sponsored walk in aid of spastics.

Director: Report is "a paper pussy cat"

"A paper pussy cat" was the eloquent phrase chosen by Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, to describe the Tonbridge Report on Rehabilitation when he spoke at a London conference which represented the first public discussion on the long-awaited report since its publication in the summer. He used the phrase because he said "paper tiger" was too strong an expression.

The report came under fire from many delegates to the conference, which was oragnised by the Central Council for the Disabled. It was too medically oriented in structure, said some speakers and while recognising the value of some of its recommendations to aid disabled people, others described it as a "missed opportunity."

In his critical reception of the report, Mr. Loring declared that it had failed to live up to the expectations that it had aroused. It had placed too much emphasis on the medical aspects of rehabilitation, and on the type of hospital organisation required, while the contribution of the remedial professions was undervalued.

Four years

He said that the sub-committee started on the report in 1968—"a long time ago"—and during the four years of its existence sweeping changes had occurred in thinking and practice. The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act of 1970, he said, had led to a realisation that local government and the community had a major role to play in rehabilitation, and a massive alteration in public opinion had led to greatly increased awareness of the problems of disability and enthusiasm for rehabilitation.

Mr. Loring also criticised the fact that the committee had been made up entirely of members of the medical profession, and asked why there were no members of the remedial professions, no disabled person, no woman, and no paediatrician, though children were so important where rehabilitation was concerned.

Therapists

He said that the report failed to give due importance to therapists, and the unfortunate attitude to what was, after all, their major role in rehabilitation was betrayed by the wording of a certain reference to them in the report, stating that "delegation of responsibility for day-to-day treatment of patients should be permitted to members of the remedial professions, provided that they are always under the supervision of the appropriate consultant."

What was needed, said Mr. Loring, was more therapists, better paid, and with a proper career structure. He did not think that research into the results of therapy was an urgent need, as suggested in the report. But research into the difficulties of obtaining equipment, into the problems of schooling, and into feedback from users of the rehabilitation service was another matter and could be valuable.

New Minister

On the subject of schooling for disabled children, he qualified the sub-committees suggestion that as many children as possible should attend normal schools, saying in his view that as many children *who would benefit* from normal schooling should receive it.

In summing up, Mr. Loring repeated his call for the appointment of a Minister for the Disabled, who could co-ordinate efforts of the many Government Ministries now involved in the care of the handicapped. What was needed was not a Government Ministry or Department, but a Minister who could be the focal point for all problems which concern the disabled, and whose job it would be to promote new measures, and enforce existing measures for the alleviation of handicap.

Helping as they learn

APPRENTICES from some of Tyneside's engineering works have been making equipment to help spastic children — it's all a part of their training.

During a recent course at Hebburn Technical College, where all the apprentices are on block release, they made a rowing machine and a hand propelled go-kart as exercise aids for children of the Felling Hebburn School.

Subsequently they made a screen printing aid, a rubber mat cutting machine and a space washer punching machine, all for the Hebburn Spastic Centre.

All these projects were undertaken with the co-operation and assistance of their tutor at the College, Mr. Charles Miller. Before starting their work, they visited the centre and the school to assess what equipment would be most useful.

Learning to understand what is going on in the community is also part of their training at the College.

Picture by courtesy of Evening Chronicle, Newcastle.

Party for the Phoenix children

A CHILDREN'S party was the first major event to be held at the Phoenix Centre, Farnborough Hospital, since its official opening by Sir Keith Joseph (reported in the last issue of Spastics News).

It was organised by the Friends of the Phoenix Centre, and guests included children at present attending the centre, their brothers and sisters and past pupils of the original centre.

Among the many good things to eat was a cake baked in the shape of the new building.

During the party a cheque for £500 was handed to Mr. J. M. Wales, President of the Friends, by Mr. Eddy Driscoll, Chairman of Petts Wood and Farnborough Round Table. The Tablers have adopted the centre as their project for the year, and the £500 was raised at a Medieval Fair held recently in Farnborough.

Choir's carols will aid spastics

A RECORD of favourite Christmas carols has been made by the Epworth choir from Surrey and proceeds from its sales will be divided between the Stars Organisation for Spastics and the Tuckwell Memorial Hospice for cancer patients at Milford.

The Epworth choir's Christmas carol activity for spastics does not end there—on December 3 they are giving two concerts at the Odeon, Guildford, and at the end of the same week, December 9, they will be singing in a carol concert at London's Festival Hall arranged by the Stars Organisation for Spastics.

Success with fair

THE Parents' Social Club, an offshoot of the Camborne-Redruth Spastics Society, in Cornwall, raised over £180 with its first autumn fair.

The club was started seven months ago to help couples over the initial shock of learning their child is a spastic. In meeting others who have faced up to the same problem, they do not feel such a terrible sense of isolation.

Canolfan Ymweliadol on tour of Wales speaks right language

A UNIQUE mobile trailer designed to carry vital information to the disabled has been given a "Welsh Look" for its visit to Cardiff and Newport during the last week of November and in December.

All the external lettering on the trailer has been changed into Welsh, as well as all posters and informative circulars announcing its arrival. Directors of Social Services have been asked to provide bilingual social workers to be on duty in the trailer to explain the various exhibits in the Welsh language.

The trailer is called the Visiting Aids Centre (Canolfan Ymweliadol), and has been organised and financed by The Spastics Society, which is concerned that thousands of people, suffering from a variety of disabilities and handicaps, do not know of the existence of many invaluable mechanical aids and of services that are available to help them.

The trailer was at North Road car park, Cardiff, from Thursday, November 23, for a week, and was officially opened by the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Alderman Mrs. Winifred Mathias.

It will go on to Newport on Monday, December 4th, where it will be officially opened by Mr. D. G. Thomas, Director of Social Services for Monmouthshire. It will be sited at the John Frost Square car park and will stay there until Friday, December 8th. It will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The trailer has already visited the North and West coasts of Wales and has attracted great interest. It has also toured 37 towns and cities in England and has been viewed by over 5,000 people, 20 per cent of whom were disabled and 25 per cent of whom were professional workers associated with the disabled.

The VAC aims to obtain information as well as impart it. An enquiry card has been handed to all visitors asking what special equipment needs they or their disabled friends and relatives have which are not at present fulfilled by manufacturers. An analysis of cards so far completed has revealed that the most eagerly sought aids for the disabled are hoists, stairlifts and personal lifts, emphasising the wish of both relatives and the handicapped themselves to be able to have facilities which enable them to stay in their own homes.

The Visiting Aids Centre frequently provides a solution to a practical problem which can make all the difference to the possibility of a disabled person coping independently. Such things as easy fastenings for clothes and specially designed "one hand" potato peelers and pastry blenders are hailed with enthusiasm by those with disabilities, who are unaware that such goods are on the market.

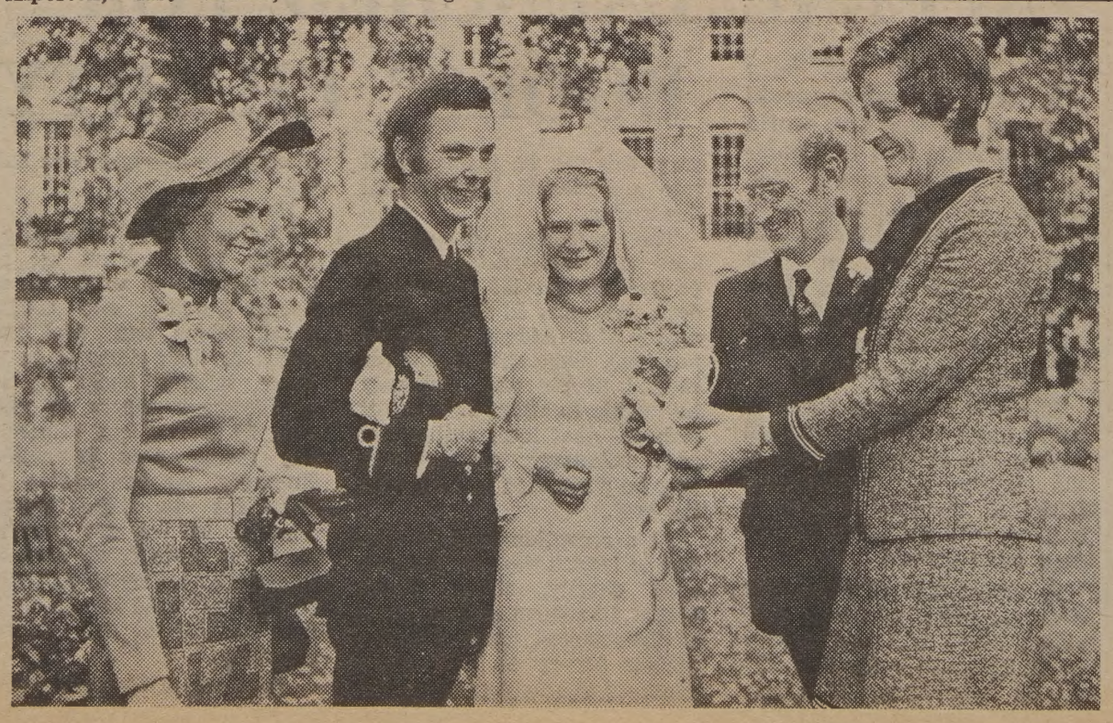
One elderly man visited the trailer in search of aids to help restore independence to his wife who was recovering from a stroke. He left elated after discovering where to obtain elastic shoelaces, and a number of pieces of kitchen equipment that can be operated with one hand.

Carefully selected furniture of the right height, back rests, bed tables and lifting aids, are all invaluable pieces of equipment to help those who are caring for disabled relatives to cope with the job with less strain.

Spastics all over the country will recognise the bride in the picture. She is Margaret Hargreaves, daughter of Mr. Bill Hargreaves, The Spastics Society's Senior Clubs and Holidays Officer, and President of the '62 Clubs, who with her mother has helped at many of the holidays and conferences for spastics organised by her father's department.

Margaret married Keith Willett at St. James's Church, Alperton, last month, and afterwards the reception was held at the Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre, at Fitzroy Square, London. The picture shows bride and groom being congratulated by Miss Margaret Morgan, Head of Social Work and Employment, in the gardens outside the centre. Also in the picture are Mr. and Mrs. Hargreaves.

Keith is an engineer on an oil tanker, and bride and groom will set up their first home in the married quarters of a ship sailing to the Persian Gulf.



Spastics Week must be the best ever

BECAUSE it is the Spastics Society's 21st anniversary year, Spastics Week, 1973 must be the biggest ever, and now is the time to start planting the seeds which will grow into a rich harvest of publicity and fund raising.

Spastics Week — designed to bring the needs of spastics into national focus and raise the funds desparately needed to help them, will be held from April 29th to May 5th. Just a few short months away . . .

Already an Operations Room has been set up at the Society's London H.Q. to coordinate efforts and provide information and advice, and one of the big events already being planned is a National Door Knock Campaign.

More news next month and every month until the Big Week.

The evening before the A.G.M...

LEFT: You can't have an event at Park Crescent without a touch of fund raising, and busily engaged with a raffle for giant teddy bears are Mrs. Valerie Phillips Medway group, Mrs. Anita Loring, and Mr. David Smith, local appeals officer for the South East Region. ABOVE RIGHT: Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Billington, and Mr. and Mrs. A. Cartwright, all from Nottingham. Our pictures were taken at the pre-A.G.M. party at Society headquarters.

ABOVE LEFT: Miss W. McGauvran, and Mrs. P. Scott of Huddersfield. CENTRE: Mrs. P. J. O'Leary, Mid-Staffs group, and Dr. D. H. Cohen, Chairman of the Society's Medical Advisory Committee. RIGHT: Mr. D. J. Ashcroft, Brighton group, and Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, Assistant Director, Services.

ABOVE LEFT: Miss Marilyn Murcott, of The Spastics Society, Mr. I. M. Thomas, Executive Council, and Mrs. J. M. Williams of the Urmston group. CENTRE: Mrs. R. Anderson, Blackpool and Fylde group, Mrs. O. Wallace, and Mrs. L. Shuttleworth, both from Preston group. RIGHT: Miss R. Osborne of Colwyn Bay with Mr. and Mrs. John Owen Parry of Watford.

LEFT: Mrs. M. Golder of Liverpool with Mrs. L. Angus-Butterworth, and Mrs. C. Atkinson of Sale and Altrincham group. CENTRE: Mr. D. Mayers, Nottingham, Mr. J. P. R. Molyneaux, Bedford, and Mr. A. R. James, of the Friends of Bedfont Spastics Hotel. RIGHT: Miss Charmian Mould, West Senior Regional Officer, with Mr. and Mrs. A. Heseltine of the Teesside group.

Above: Pictured in conversation at the coffee break during the morning session of the annual meeting are Mr. Alex Moira, a vice-chairman of the Society, who chaired the meeting, Sir Keith Joseph, Mr. James Loring, Director of the Society, and Professor Paul Polani who leads the team at the Society's Paediatric Research Unit at Guy's Hospital.

Society must fa of new "winds of change"

Continue providing the same services for spastics in the same way, or take advantage of the winds of change to pioneer new ideas which could make a whole new world available to the handicapped and their families. That was the challenge facing The Spastics Society today, said Mr. Alex Moira when he chaired the 20th annual general meeting of the Society in London in November.

The Society was in a unique position to take advantage of the rapid changes and new thinking in the field of social services, he said. Apart from the new legislation and innovations at a national and local level, there was a change in the attitude of the public to social services, and a greater acceptance by the public as to their responsibility for the handicapped, plus willingness to accept them in the community and out of the nooks and crannies to which they were once put.

Services

But the changing situation presented a challenge to the Society, said Mr. Moria, which should be looking carefully at the services it wished to offer to the handicapped "because it will probably be many years before an opportunity occurs of this magnitude again."

As always, said Mr. Moira, one of the problems that faced the Society was shortage of cash and shortage of people. Bands of devoted people were running services very well, but with little margin to spare.

"It is only if we can break out of this situation that we will be free to do new things and explore new fields. There are many things we have not done, and many things we ought to be doing.

"It has always been one of the proud boasts of the Society, and rightly, that it was an innovator. I think it is less so at the present time because of the involvement of us all in the maintainance of what we have.

"The Society is in fact, carrying a very heavy burden of services which are the duty of the authorities of various kinds".

Be clever

He said that if the Society was very clever "in this very fluid situation" it might be possible to pass on to the authorities the work that was their duty. Perhaps Directors of Social Services could take over the running of some centres, so that the Society could be freed to do the work which would fulfil the desperate needs of spastics.

Mr. Moira said the Society must continue its role of development, "or we could find ourselves running the same centres and services in the same way 20 years hence, and that would be a tragedy".

We must look carefully at the way we could free manpower and resources, said Mr. Moira, and what should then be done with them. Towards this end, the Executive Council had already set up a small advisory group to examine the field and submit a "sketch plan". And the Council would hold a seminar in the spring to talk over problems and the possible changes that might be made.

Mr. Moira told the audience of his own "tentative shoppin list" of areas where the Soc ety should develop its worl But he pointed out that th Society would always carry burden of running costs an capital expenditure.

The quality of life for spa tics he said was vitally impor ant. They must be place **within** society, and at the mor ent they were **without** societ Attempts to help spastic towards integration might mea the Society building new pr vision for them, and perhap phase out or alter the olde centres. In the early days the Society, he said "one the things was to rush roun the countryside and look mouldering mansions on th cheap. They are very attracti but in the middle of som blasted heath or at the top of windswept hill, and the peop who live and work there a isolated. We will look at the with a very beady eye".

New homes

On the subject of accomm dation he told the meeti that applications were now b ing chosen for the first hom to be built by Habinteg, t Society-sponsored housing ass ciation. (More news of Habi teg on page 2).

Among the other prioriti detailed by Mr. Moira wer More work for the handicappe and because not everybo wants to work with their hand the setting up of a small int lectual workshop. The future school leavers from Meldre Manor, the Society's school f physically and mentally han capped children. More pla groups for pre-school handica ped children, and more toy l raries. The making available information on research fi ings and educational te niques. Increased work on ai and appliances for the han capped, on building desig publications and films, a staff training.

Mr. Moira, who is a vi chairman of the Society, to the chair at the annual me ing because of the abser abroad of Mr. William Bu Chairman of the Executi Council.

A CHEER FOR WORKERS IN ULSTER

A MESSAGE of goodwill went from The Spastics Society's annual general meeting to the affiliated organisation which works for spastics in strife-torn Northern Ireland. In view of the circumstances in which they had to work, said Mr. Moira, he thought "their achievement is remarkable, and it would be nice for us to send them a cheer."

His words were greeted with a storm of applause from the packed audience.

Executive Council elections

THE election of Mr. Adrian Wright, a spastic, to the Society's Executive Council at the annual general meeting is reported on the front page of Spastics News. Also successful in the ballot were:

Mr. William Burn, Chairman of the Executive Council since 1966, who retired by rotation from the Council and was re-elected.

Mr. John Grenier, who was appointed in March this year to fill a casual vacancy on the Council, and became eligible for re-election at the annual meeting.

Mr. William Jehan, retired by rotation from the Council and was re-elected.

Mr. Herbert Palmer, also retired by rotation from the Council, and was re-elected. Mr. Palmer is a vice-chairman of the Society.

Dr. Millicent Regan, was newly elected to the Executive Council. Dr. Regan is assistant senior medical officer, Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Crosby, Bootle and Litherland Spastics Society.

Above: Mary Bennett from Slough reads the programme for the annual meeting surrounded by willing helpers—all Thames Valley police cadets who frequently volunteer to lend a hand to assist spastics at various events. They are Helen Chapman, Peter Stratton, Anne Weatherall, and Colin Evans. Below: A small section of the audience which packed the hall at the Royal College of Surgeons for the meeting.

Income up — but keep pace with

THE Spastics Society was taking all possible steps offset the effects of inflation, said Mr. D. B. E. Belso the Society's Honorary Treasurer, when he presented t financial report at the annual general meeting. Ov all income rose by £75,645 to £2,315,196—an increase three per cent, and gratifying though this was, he sa it did not keep pace with the current inflationary tre of 7½ to 8 per cent.

Mr. Belson reported that income from legacies and deeds of covenant had increased, and paid a special tribute to the Stars Organisation for Spastics which had succeeded in raising a total of £112,073 during the year. The S.O.S., he said, had worked with great effort, enthusiasm and determination, and the Society was very grateful.

In spite of rising costs and increased expenditure on the running of national schools and centres and in direct services to spastics, Mr. Belson reported that the Society had managed to contain the year's expenditure within the av able resources.

The Treasurer spoke of efforts to increase Appeals come to offset the decline income from the football p on which the Society had b so dependent for so lo Every attempt was being m to build up income from ot sources, and he told membe "You know how difficult t is. It has involved taking ri Some are very success some are failures, but e with the latter all is not because valuable experie has been gained.

"It is very difficult to k how we compare in

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Mrs. Anita Loring points out information about The Spastics Society's publications to A.G.M. delegates Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rendell of the Bedford '62 Club, and right, Mr. D. Bentley from the Nottingham Friends of Spastics Society.

Spastics to have new opportunities for independence

A 'NEW DEAL' for the handicapped – with the provision of more small homes within the community, and greater opportunities for independent, integrated living – is announced by The Spastics Society in its Annual Report.

It states that although the Society had pioneered the building of many centres providing special facilities for spastics, it had learned over the years that the segregation of young handicapped people in residential establishments could contribute to their encountering later difficulties in their social relationships with the able-bodied.

The Society was looking away from the 'institutional' concept.

Plans were already in hand for a proportion of specially adapted homes for single handicapped people, married couples and families, within ordinary housing developments. The Society's Housing Association, set up three years ago, had nearly completed the first of these projects at Haringey, London. Further schemes were being considered for Milton Keynes, Southampton, Paddock Wood, Glasgow, Warrington, Islington and Manchester.

that while "integration into the community" is the theme of this new phase, the Society acceupted that some spastics were so disabled that they would always need care in a centre.

"We are determined that the quality of life we offer them must be comparable with that of the outside world, particularly for younger men and women," he says.

"To this end, the Society is studying what spastics really want, rather than giving them what we think they need. We aim that they will contribute to their own future; participate in the planning of new services; and in decision-taking within the centre."

Single rooms

Changes in this direction were already in hand—with the provision of more single rooms, improved accommodation, and closer links between the centres and the local community.

"The Society must seek to develop the whole personality of every young spastic person because he or she has the same desire, drives and emotions as everyone else" concludes Mr. Burn.

If they marry

In addition, four small units for severely handicapped spastics who wished to get married would be built in the near future. Here the emphasis would be on independence in a smaller home, with some care on hand when necessary.

Wherever possible, the Society would help with aids and services which would allow more spastics to live at home. "This solution offers a more normal life and is less expensive than institutional care—an important point for local authorities to consider when they are called upon to work with us on housing schemes, adaptations and home services," says the Report.

In his statement, Mr. William Burn, Chairman of Executive Council, points out

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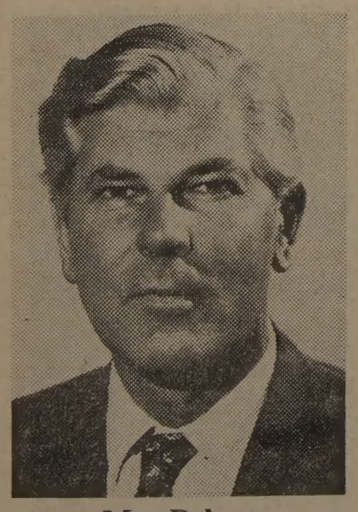

Mr. Belson

efforts with other charities because there is no yardstick to measure performance. We are always trying to increase Appeals income at the least possible cost to the Society."

SIR KEITH'S TRIBUTE TO VOLUNTARY WORKERS

(Contd. from Page 1)

tunate. He went on: "When a voluntary organisation is both a pressure group and a provider of services then it seems to me to fulfil the very acme of purpose of a voluntary society, and among the leaders of this sort of organisation is your own."

Enormous improvements had been made in the care of the mentally and physically handicapped, claimed Sir Keith, but he was only too aware of the work still needing to be done. He detailed some of the changes that had been made in the Social Services field, of the improvements already achieved and the plans for the future. As evidence of the progress being made, he spoke of the efforts to cut overcrowding in hospitals for the mentally handicapped, and to set up community services for patients; of the "dramatic rise" in local authority spending in every aspect concerned with handicap, and of the new Attendance Allowance for people who needed care day or night instead of both.

At the moment, he said, there were only 19 purpose built local authority homes for young disabled people in the country, but 16 new ones were under construction, and capital was earmarked for another 46 in the next few years.

Early diagnosis and comprehensive assessment of handicapped children was vitally important, said Sir Keith, and an extra £1 million was being spent to provide a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary assessment centre at each of the 170 new district general hospitals now being built.

All this added up to solid evidence of a transformation of services, said Sir Keith, and though a lot remained to be done, life for the disabled was very different from 10 or 15 years ago.

And he reminded the audience: "You are not the only people in the queue!"

While he could not commit the Government in any way, said Sir Keith, he thought it might make sense for it to publish a progress report some time next year "to bring together the different strands of services for the disabled and set on record what is being done and show the public how paper plans and politicians' speeches are being translated into reality."

In proposing a vote of thanks to Sir Keith, Dr. Margaret Griffiths said the Society appreciated the positive interest of Sir Keith's department in the needs of the handicapped and disabled. "These people represent a group with tremendous needs and they deserve to have them met. They are not people who contribute to the resources from which these needs will be met, nor are they particularly voteworthy," she said. Dr. Griffiths also thanked Sir Keith for the support he gives voluntary organisations, adding, "and I know we are sometimes something of a nuisance.

Are you planning a winter holiday?

ASHWELLTHORPE Hall Holiday Hotel, the holiday centre in Norfolk designed for the disabled, is remaining open to visitors throughout the winter—to implement the new five-day (Monday to Friday), full board winter holiday, for only £6.75.

The number of holidays already enjoyed, plus the number of bookings flowing in, are positive proof of the popularity and good sense of the scheme.

Ashwellthorpe Hall is owned and administered by the Disabled Drivers' Association. A moated country house, parts of which date back to Tudor times, it is delightfully situated in acres of well-wooded parkland, with paths and lawns accessible by wheelchair. There are also the more usual hotel amenities typified by the cosy oak-panelled Elizabethan bar, large comfortable lounge and wide-screen colour TV. Very popular, too, is the brand-new 12-seater Minibus, recently presented to the Hall by the Wymondham Branch of Lions International, already in full use providing jaunts to the coast or trips around the countryside for those disabled holidaymakers without transpor of their own.

Some folk use Ashwellthorpe as a base for touring; others find the peace of the Hall and its grounds a tonic in itself, and do nothing more energetic than feeding the ducks on the moat or playing a gentle round of golf (yes, even from wheelchairs).

A game of golf during a winter holiday at Ashwellthorpe Hall.

SILENT TRIBUTE TO MEMORY OF MISS GARWOOD

BEFORE the business of the annual general meeting started, a moving tribute was paid to the memory of Miss Jean Garwood, a founder member of The Spastics Society who died a year ago, and whose presence was sadly missed at the meeting.

Delegates stood in silence to the memory of Miss Garwood, after hearing Mr. Alex Moira, who chaired the meeting, describe her as "a person of incomparable quality". She had devoted her life to the service of others, said Mr. Moira, and in her passing the Society had lost a very great person.

Miss Garwood served continuously on the Executive Council and many other Society committees and advisory groups for nearly 20 years. In a tribute to her in the Society's annual report, the Chairman of the Executive Council, Mr. William Burn wrote:

"Miss Garwood was an outstanding example of the selfless, dedicated voluntary worker that provides the life blood for voluntary work in the United Kingdom. Perhaps her greatest contribution to the work of this Society, particularly as it grew larger, was that she never forgot, or allowed anyone else to forget, the need to treat each and every spastic as an individual with different problems, needs and aspirations".

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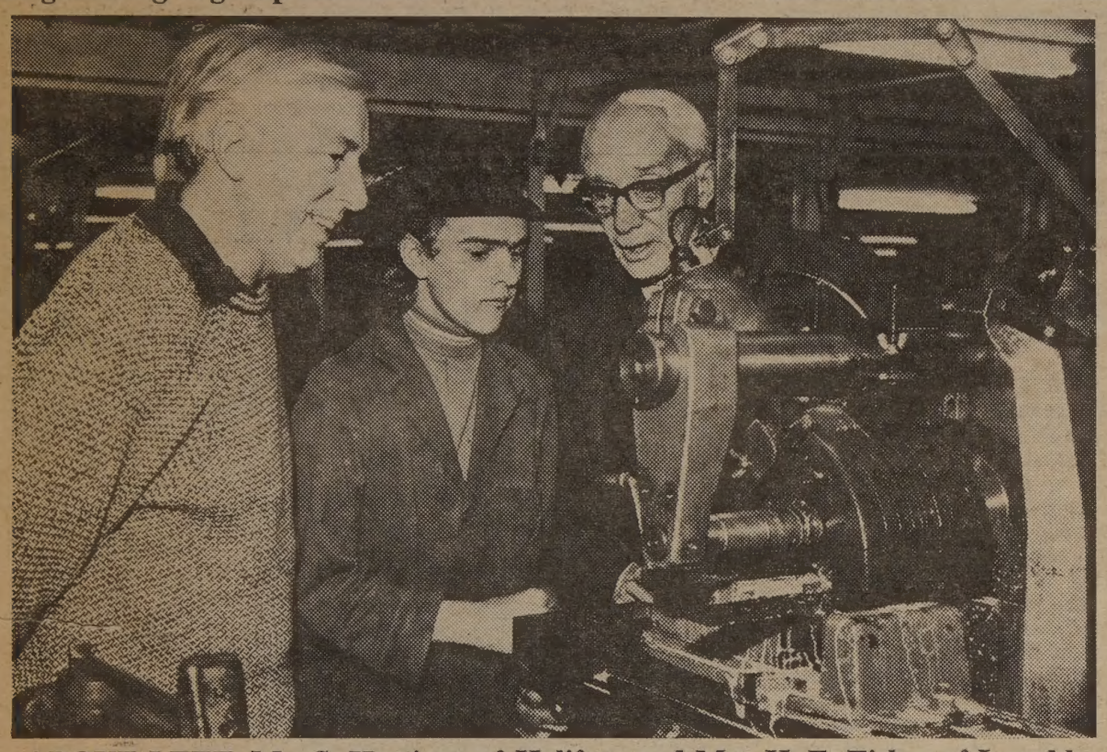
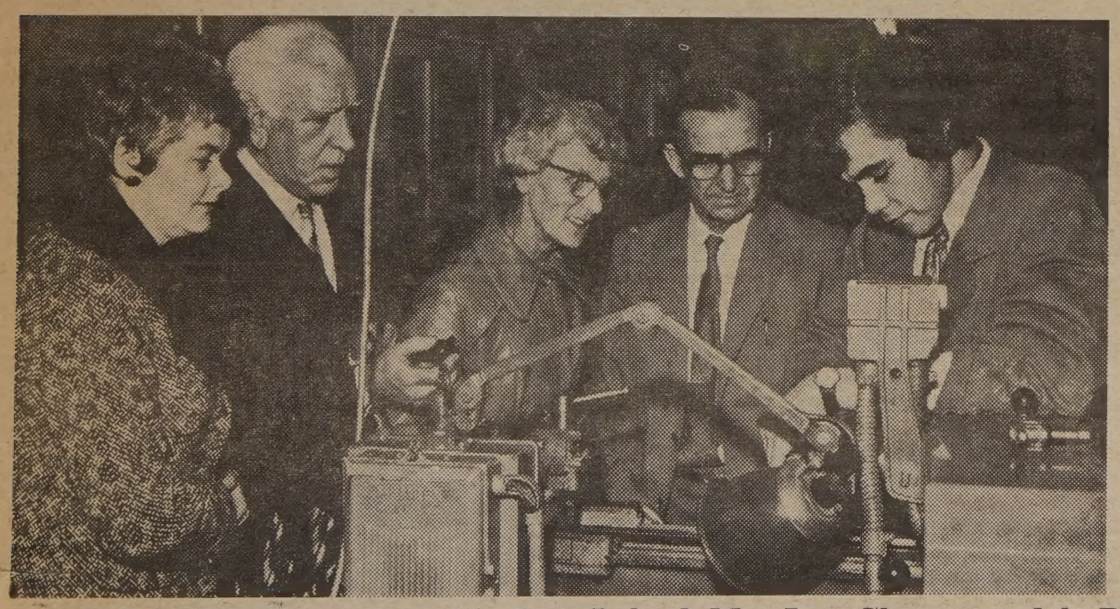
Sherrards gives them a working chance

WHEN the serious business of the Annual General Meeting was concluded, members of voluntary groups who had come to London for the meeting could either attend a showing of Society films with a discussion led by Director, Mr. James Loring, or visit The Spastics Society's Sherrards Training Centre at Welwyn, Hertfordshire. Here spastics are patiently taught the industrial skills which will fit them for employment and as independent a life as their disabilities will allow. Our pictures were taken as the visitors toured the workshops and met staff and trainees.

PICTURE RIGHT: Physiotherapist Miss Sue Jacks on and trainee Sally Baker are watched by an interes ted gathering of group members.



ABOVE LEFT: Mr. S. Hastings of Halifax, and Mr. H. E. Fisher of Loughborough group, watch trainee Steven Annable at work. ABOVE RIGHT: Councillor Jackson of Watford, Lady Bowes-Lyon, Chairman of Sherrards Management Committee, and Mrs. J. P. R. Molyneaux, warden of Bedfont Spastics Hotel, Clacton, discuss the workshop with white-coated instructor Mr. Reg Benson.



ABOVE LEFT: Visitors from Northern Ireland, Mrs. Joan Glugston, and the Rev. Donald Fraser, and Mr. and Mrs. Cartwright of Nottingham with machine operator Michael Ashton-Rose. ABOVE RIGHT: Charles Green at work watched by Mrs. Stott of Farnborough, Mr. W. Martin of Tees-side, and Mr. T. J. Evans, and Mr. T. Ramsey of Cardiff.

ABOVE LEFT: Denise Evans and Antonia Wright demonstrate their work for a party of visitors. ABOVE RIGHT: Mrs. Turner of Bristol, and Mr. Jones of Penarth with Stephen Jewell.

Why Ann hates the word "courageous"

TROUBLE loomed for the Peterborough Standard's Woman's Angle feature when spastic Ann Bartlett, of Thurning Avenue, Peterborough, read the article about herself in the paper. The article concerned Ann's courageous approach to running her home, and the writer commented ruefully: "I know few words annoy her more than that of 'courageous.'"

The article continued:

But that is how I see it. If we think we've got problems when the cooking, cleaning, washing and other domestic diversions mount up, we should see Ann, working her way through the daily routine.

Talk and fun

And how she is making out as a housewife, since her marriage in December last year to David, who is similarly disabled, is what I went to see her about.

Besides being a born talker, Ann has a keen sense of humour, so I knew I'd get a light-hearted and articulate introduction to her new scene.

There's plenty of good common sense in the attitude she adopts to her changed pattern of living: A different one from her single days, ever so slightly pampered at home and competent at work as a receptionist with the council at Croydon.

Time factor

Ann admits: "I've completely changed since I left my parents' home. The first thing I realised was that if I dropped anything on the floor, I and I alone would be the one to pick it up. I thought I'd have loads of time for my poetry, reading and writing—alas!

Perhaps the greatest change is that she has become time conscious. "I was noted for my unpunctuality!

"A number of things I found difficult when I started my housekeeping I have, over the months, come to terms with. Shopping, once the main operation of the day, now fits in. The people in the shops are very kind anyway.

"Perhaps I'm learning the knack of lots of things. In the main I think I'm relaxing to home making. At first I wanted to do and acquire everything at once. Now I'm prepared to wait. Bare bulbs in the hall is not a tragedy. I know people will come to see us whether we have shades on the lights or not."

So she must mark time. "Nobody could do as much as I want to do, and at once. The best piece of advice came from one of my home helps. She said, 'Decide on what is to be done, then don't sit thinking about it—get on with it.'

"Washing up may sound trivial, but I find it must be done and cleared away after every meal — no leaving in soak!

It's friendly

Ann starts with the idea of a schedule. But oh those happy interruptions. "Not only do friends come, but friends of friends. Some say our house should be called Clapham Junction.

Jean Hawarden and Karen Badger, SJAB cadets prepared to help in any capacity, and Susan and Stephen Davenport, gardeners, are among their valued friends.

Now they've been joined by Roteract members who have beautifully restyled the kitchen.

Some of Ann's kitchen gadgets could be useful to the more able housewife. These include a long-handled colander, a kettle that switches itself off, a one-handed tin opener, and a trolley that plays its part throughout the day. She says, "What I would dearly love would be remote control over the front door."

This is Ann's story, so little will be said about David, who, when he isn't at work, is devoted to watching sport. But something must be said about the pretty home they share with their beloved Barrington—the cat.

Function has to be the keynote of the bungalow, but the well-chósen furniture, easy on the eye carpeting and the use of colour for decoration, makes their home a very pleasant place to live in.

IN THE PICTURE which is by courtesy of the Peterborough Standard, Ann puts the chicken in the oven, ready for dinner.

"Let's get together to discuss changes"

DURING 17 years of living in various institutions for the disabled, and in the two years since I left, certain questions have nagged insistently at me. What can be done to improve residential centres, homes and hospital units for the physically handicapped? What alternative forms of care might be devised which would prove more satisfactory? What changes in society are required if severe disability is either to be eradicated or to become no bar to full social participation?

In discussion recently a friend suggested that what was needed was to have the views of people who are themselves actual or potential recipients of institutional care. Their ideas on the situation are more important than anyone else's, but are often least taken account of by administrators, planners and politicians. If severely handicapped people were able to get together to work out proposals for change, they could obtain national publicity and a say whenever their future was being discussed.

I should be very glad to hear from people who are interested in this proposal. The intention is to form a group, made up of past, present and possible future disabled residents, together with their friends, and eventually to hold a national conference to decide on policies, priorities, and methods of achieving change.

Paul Hunt.
61 Chettle Court,
Ridge Road,
London, N8.

EVERYTHING is blooming at Coombe Farm — and I mean blooming because last May we started our Gardening Club, which has 10 members all confined to wheelchairs.

Through raffles we were able to purchase five circular concrete rings in which we have planted various flowers to form raised gardens. The circular shape enables the club members to attend to their own gardens without help.

This summer with help from the gardener, members have grown alyssum, lobelia, pansy, dianthus and fuchsia. Now we have prepared the soil and put some bulbs in ready for spring.

We have named our club "Ten Rings Gardening Club", as we are hoping to get five more rings at a later date. At the moment the members share the rings, two to each one.

We are also trying to raise the money, again by raffles, to buy a domed greenhouse in which to grow our own plants from seed.

Jane Thomas,
Coombe Farm Centre,
Croydon, Surrey.

Jackie wins a Gold Award

JACKIE RAWLINSON, 21, of Preston, Lancashire, has won a gold award in the Duke of Edinburgh's scheme. Jackie, who is a spastic, works in the computer department of a large electrical firm.

As well as being a Brownie Guider and assistant Cub Leader, she is a Sunday School teacher, a member of the church choir and secretary of the junior Missionary Association.

Mr. E. L. Brooks, Treasurer of Oldham and District Spastics Society, receives a £1,000 cheque from Mrs. F. E. Heywood, Chairman of the Oldham Spastics Aid Ladies' Committee. This brings to over £6,000 the total amount raised for the Group by the ladies' committee over the past ten years.

Picture by courtesy of Oldham Evening Chronicle

Boys won everyone's admiration

AT the annual camping competition organised by Scouts from all over the Plymouth area, 15 boys from the 2nd Ivybridge Group won more admiration than any of the others, and this despite the fact that they had none of the high-speed efficiency that normally wins prizes.

The fact that they were there at all was a major achievement, and the enjoyment they got from the competitions was its own reward.

For these boys make up the company from the Dame Hannah Rogers School at Ivybridge, which has pioneered the education of spastic youngsters in Devon and Cornwall. They are all physically handicapped, many of them severely enough to be confined to wheelchairs. Yet once a week they get into their uniforms and take to their Scouting with an enthusiasm which makes up for any physical difficulties, such as the fact that to put up a tent or even tie a simple reef knot can be a painfully slow and frustrating business.

BITS AND PIECES
by The Collector

Yet, says their Scout Leader, Ron Harding, a Plympton newsagent who has enlisted the help of a Venture Scout unit to provide a rota of assistants with the company, "It is really remarkable to see what they can do. You have to see it to believe it."

He believes that Scouting is of value because it gives these youngsters something to identify with and principles to live up to.

It isn't only the boys who are following in Baden-Powell's footsteps at the school. There is also a Guide section of seven girls. In the summer they went on a weekend camp and insisted on sleeping in tents instead of the hut that was available. They tackle a wide range of tests to earn the usual Guide badges — anything from first aid to the art of entertaining.

* * *

THIS year's Annual Weekend Reunion of the Old Delaruvian Association was attended by over 30 former students of the Society's Thomas Delarue School and was one of the most successful ever.

It took place at the school during an exeat weekend for the present pupils. Apart from the serious business of the A.G.M. there was a coffee morning with past and present members of staff, a film-show and a reunion dinner attended by Mr. and Mrs. Delarue.

THE Portsmouth and District Spastics Society has recruited a pair of stalwart supporters — two little girls of about five years old. Calling on friends and neighbours, they collect old newspapers in their dolls' prams and deliver them to The Spastics Centre.

Comments the Group Newsletter: "What a wonderful example they are to many older children who are continually complaining that 'They are bored and haven't got anything to do'. They also reflect much credit on their parents for the splendid way they are being taught to think about and help other people".

MRS. Mary Cox of Stratford, East London, recently celebrated her 80th birthday with a dance and social at Stratford Town Hall. But instead of giving her presents, all the guests were asked to contribute to charities for the sick, invalid and spastics.

Mrs. Cox, a widow, who has devoted most of her life to raising funds for charity, holds a medal and two bars for her voluntary work.

She has five children, eight grandchildren and 13-great children.

* * *

MR. Robert Lancaster, of 26, Colebrook Road, Shirley Warwickshire, who is a severley-handicapped athetoid, has recently passed the tests of the Institute of Advanced Drivers. This remarkable achievement follows the award he won four years ago as "Young Driver of the Year," when he was sponsored by the Midland Spastic Association Helping Hand Youth Club.

Both these achievements were open to drivers of all kinds and not restricted to the handicapped.

Mr. Lancaster had his first driving lessons on a piece of waste land at about 10 years of age so he can be regarded, although only in his 20's, as a veteran driver.

Literary contest for spastics set for third year of success

THE literary contest for spastics which The Spastic's Society introduced in 1970 proved so popular that it was repeated last year and resulted in twice as many entries. We feel sure, therefore, that the news of Literary Contest No. 3 will arouse great interest, and we confidently expect a deluge of stories, articles and poetry to descend on us during the next three months.

The contest opens on Friday December 1st, 1972 and the closing date for entries is Wednesday, February 28th, 1973. Cash prizes will be awarded for the best entries in several categories — schoolchildren, young adults from 17 to 25, and the over 25's. There is also a special section for poetry.

Once again we will have a distinguished panel of judges, and prizewinners will be invited to a special reception at the Society's headquarters in London to receive their prizes.

Contestants can choose their own subjects to write about — fact or fiction, humorous or profound, a personal happening or a comment on the passing pageant. The previous contests produced a wide range of subjects including ghost stories, an interview with a wrestler, hilarious accounts of learning to ride and to swim, views on marriage for the handicapped, a lighthearted look at love, running a film unit, a modern parable, country dancing, inventions, special holidays, job and school experiences, pets, hobbies, ambitions, short stories of all kinds — and every single one was interesting and worth reading. We only wish everybody could have had a prize.

Entry forms and full details of the Literary Contest can be obtained from the Society's schools and centres, local groups, Spastics News or from Mrs. Nina Heycock, Roxburghe House, 273/287 Regent Street, London, W1R 8AD. Spastics in Scotland can get forms direct from the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics, "Rhuemore", 22 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 6HP.

Director's Christmas appeal to readers

THE need for vital early treatment for spastic children is emphasised by Mr. James Loring, the Director of The Spastics Society, in his Christmas letter to newspapers throughout the country. He says:

Signs of the approach of Christmas are already appearing and children are beginning to look forward to the gifts they hope to receive.

It is tragic to think that thousands of spastic children throughout the country may be denied the most vitally important gift that could ever be given to them — a chance of being able to live a comparatively normal life. These are the unlucky ones, handicapped from birth, who do not live near enough to a spastics treatment centre to have the skilled care they so badly need.

They could be helped if there were enough of these centres—we have already built 30, but many more are needed, and we will not be satisfied until there is one in every large town. The cost will be great, but the need is even greater, and thousands of spastic under-fives must not be denied the chance of taking their place with other more fortunate children.

May I ask your readers for their support; by buying The Spastics Society's Christmas cards, stamps and gifts, or by sending us a much needed donation. They will be helping us to give increased aid to these hapless youngsters who cannot help themselves.

Dickie honoured by S.O.S.

IT was quite a month for presentations for Dickie Henderson who ended his three-year term as Chairman of the Stars Organisation for Spastics with a big ovation at the annual general meeting of the S.O.S. and the handing over to him of a photograph album depicting special events during his years of office. And in addition his fellow stars made him a life President of the organisation.

Dickie is pictured after the presentation with Mr. William Burn, Chairman of the Executive Council of The Spastics Society, Mr. Leslie Crowther, also a Vice-President, and the S.O.S. President, the Hon. Mrs. James Ogilvy.

At the annual meeting, the S.O.S. members elected Roger Moore, famous "Saint," and now "James Bond," as their new Chairman.

Picture below shows members at their A.G.M., and it's quite an exercise in star spotting for sharp-eyed readers. Among them are John Hanson, Arthur Askey, Leslie Crowther, Peter Sellers, Leslie Grade, Sydney Taffler, David Jacobs, Francis Mathews, Jack Howarth, Eve Boswell, Donald Houston, Cyril Stapleton, Muriel Pavlow and Derek Farr.

Gwendoline Kelly and Alan Storrow, who married recently at St. John's Church, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. The bride, a former pupil of the Society's Craig-y-parc and Thomas Delarue Schools, also attended Lancaster Training Centre. The groom is an ex-Sherrards trainee.

The couple will set up home in a ground-floor flat in Hemel Hempstead.

Worthing, Littlehampton and District Spastics Society has raised £125 at a wine and cheese party. The event was attended by the Duchess of Norfolk, Group President.

* * *

Watford and District Independent Order of Oddfellows have donated more than £250 to the North Watford Spastics Centre. This represents the proceeds from an autumn fair held by the Order.

Ipswich and East Suffolk Spastics Society raised £405 with a recent bazaar. Most of the money will go towards the running costs of the Ipswich Work Centre and the rest is to be spent on general welfare of spastics in the area.

Experts will study problems of "open" education for handicapped

International Study Group for The Spastics Society, sponsored by the International Cerebral Palsy Society, on Integration of Handicapped Children in Society, to be held at University College, Oxford, from the 2-7 April, 1973.

FOR some time now the world of special education has been talking about integrating the handicapped child in society. At this seminar we shall be discussing the problems of "open" education and what we need to do to help the child, the family and the teacher, to make the child's living and learning in an ordinary school possible and profitable. However, there will always be those who are so severely handicapped that other special provision must be made for them in a special school or at home, and the special schools themselves can contribute much through technology, technique, study of the child, experimentation and research towards the effective education of the handicapped child in an ordinary school.

Until comparatively recently, little special provision for handicapped children was available in ordinary schools; instead they were mostly transferred to specialised educational establishments which were equipped to provide for them. This system has worked well enough in a limited way, but no system of education for handicapped children which relies largely on special schools or classes is likely to be able to provide for all children who need special help. Special schools which cater primarily for children suffering from a particular type of handicap are likely to draw their pupils from a wide geographical area, and this causes the child to spend long periods of the day travelling between home and school, or to attend boarding school, which neither they nor their families may like. In a sense, the special school itself is abnormal in that children are inevitably cut off to some extent from the wider world, and though most special schools do as much as possible to see that handicapped children mix with the non-handicapped, artificially contrived situations of this sort cannot replace the normal everyday experiences of a child living with its family in the surrounding community.

For these reasons and many others, those interested in the education of the handicapped child had begun to ask themselves the question of how best could the services be reorganised in order that the handicapped child may be integrated as far as possible in society? A good deal of this pressure comes from parents who would very much prefer that their handicapped child be admitted to an ordinary school.

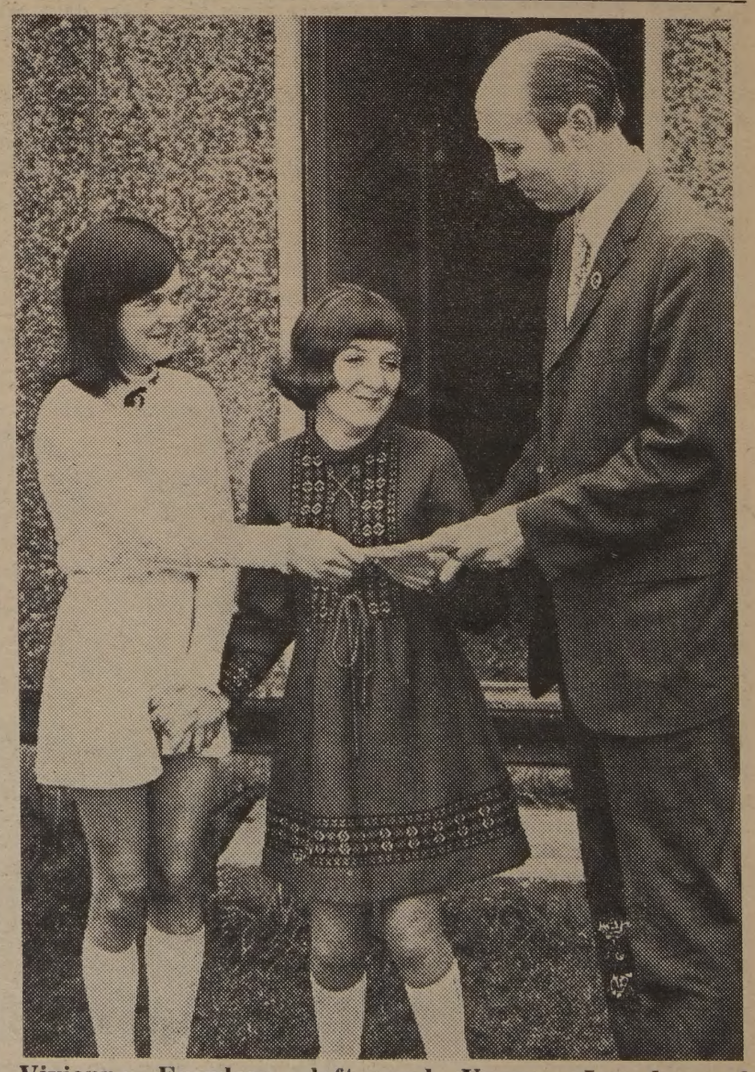
But before we can embark upon any full-scale plan to integrate handicapped children, there are a number of questions which have to be asked, for example: What do we mean by the word 'integration', is it really necessary? Why do we think we want it? Are there any reasons against it? What should our goals be? Does it work? Which type of child integrates best? If integration fails, why does it? Can we integrate the mentally handicapped child? Do the handicapped themselves want to be integrated? Can we integrate the handicapped child in the ordinary school and, if so, how, and if we are going to integrate, what programme of public education must we embark upon?

These and many questions like them will be discussed at the international study group, which will be of particular interest to heads of ordinary schools who, in the light of future developments, may be asked to educate handicapped children. Also to teachers of the handicapped, social workers, doctors, psychologists, and those whose job it is to form policies and administer the educational services in respective areas. It is intended that the discussion shall not be confined to the cerebral palsied, but shall include the problems of blind, deaf, spina bifida, and thalidomide children, and those with multiple handicaps.

Participation in this study group will be by invitation only and will be limited to 100 people. The working language of the meeting will be English.

The cost per delegate will be £30; this includes registration fee, accommodation and all meals. Further details from the Study Group Director, The Spastics Society, 12, Park Crescent, London, W1N 4EQ.

Anita Loring



Vivienne Evardson, left, and Yvonne Loveday, of Grimsby, Lincolnshire, present £10 to Mr. Frank Fell, Chairman of the South Humberside Spastics Society. The girls raised the money at a jumble sale which they organised.

Picture by courtesy of Grimsby Evening Telegraph.

As fund raising goes it was a vintage event

LEADING personalities from the merchant banks, Lloyds, the Stock Exchange, shipping firms, the legal profession and other City interests were to be found discussing on November 8th, not the latest take-over bid, but the merits of a claret as compared to a burgundy, or possibly a 1971 Muscatel to a 1970 Chablis.

The convivial break from the normal routine was provided by a wine tasting held in aid of The Spastics Society at the Saddlers' Hall, home of one of London's leading historic livery companies. The beautiful surroundings, resplendent with glittering chandeliers and a magnificent collection of gold plate, made a perfect setting for an enjoyable — and profitable — lunch hour.

Annual reports and balance sheets took second place to wine tasting notes which had been prepared by Michael Broadbent, the wine director of Christie's. Guests were led through a wide selection of wines provided by four of London's leading wine merchants, Berry Bros. & Rudd, Corney and Barrow, Mayor Sworder, and Jacksons of Piccadilly.

Among the 150 guests were The Duke of St. Albans, an honorary patron for the occasion, Mr. Michael Pickard, Vice-Chairman of the British Printing Corporation, Sir William Mullens, Mr. Spencer Le Marchant and Mr. John Cordle, Members of Parliament, Mr. Cyril Saper, President of the Law Society's Wine Society, and Mr. Peter Gadsden, an Alderman of the City of London.

It was the first time that The Spastics Society had ventured into the closed world of the City, to arrange a social occasion and it proved to be a fund raising success, as nearly £1,000 was raised towards the annual running costs of the Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre in Fitzroy Square, London.

City of London Alderman Peter Gadsden, a patron of the wine tasting, discusses the wine list with Elizabeth Tracy of The Spastics Society.

Mr. J. T. Race, and Mr. A. D. Parsons of Durrant, Cooper and Hambling, the Society's solicitors, were among the supporters of the City fund raising event.

The Duke of St. Albans, a patron of the wine tasting, with the Director of The Spastics Society, Mr. James Loring.

Two City financial experts, Mr. E. M. Berry and Mr. Peter Durlacher, a patron of the wine tasting, enjoyed the convivial way of raising funds.

New playroom for children

STUDENTS of Wigan Technical College, Lancashire, have built a garden playroom for spastic children at Green Lane Hospital, Ormskirk.

The students made the summerhouse as part of a project for their course in advanced carpentry and joinery.

Normally their training work is dismantled and the material used again, but on this occasion the students obtained permission from College authorities to donate the playroom to the hospital.

SPONSORED TRIP IN ELDERLY CAR

THE Society's Nottingham Family Help Unit was one of three charities to benefit from a 900-mile sponsored drive made recently in a 1926 Austin 7. The trip, from Land's End to John O'Groats, took 26 hours, 15 minutes. It was made by three workers from Ratcliffe Power Station, Nottinghamshire. They collected £575 from sponsors.

Lack of nursery schools "almost a crime"

Give youngest children a fair start pleads Society

THE lack of nursery school facilities for under-privileged and handicapped children is 'almost a crime' which can result in permanent deprivation or damage in their future lives, says a report issued by The Spastics Society in November.

Entitled "A Fair Start in Life" the report joins with the National Union of Teachers and the Nursery Schools Association in pressing the Department of Education and Science to announce immediately the promised priority plans to expand the nursery education sector throughout Britain.

It advocates the formation of more parental pressure groups to demand the cancellation of Circular 8/60 which bars local Education Authorities from going ahead with the provision of nursery schools at their own discretion.

It also suggests that parents should demonstrate how widespread the need for pre-school provision is by setting up crash community projects and forming small play groups for able-bodied and handicapped children on a rota basis.

The report says that pre-school facilities for children under five years of age are more inadequate in Britain today than they were over 100 years ago. In 1870, no less than 25 per cent of all children attended some form of nursery education. Today, this percentage has fallen drastically.

The situation was a tragedy for handicapped children and could destroy their "slender chance of a near-normal life", as well as rob them of the possibility of acceptance within the able-bodied community in later life.

It urges the setting up of play groups and nursery units for priority groups, which should include a percentage of places for handicapped children suffering from widely different handicaps.

Handicapped children suffering from mental and physical damage were often deprived of ordinary sensory experiences which came naturally to normal children through everyday actions. Participating in a group helped these children to gain these experiences and by contact with normal children, to learn to imitate.

Pre-school facilities were also desperately needed to help the mothers of handicapped infants. Frequently these women had not recovered from the shock and grief sustained by the knowledge that their children would never be normal. Often they were unsure of how best to cope with their children, and because of 'guilt' feelings became unnaturally and fiercely over-protective to the detriment of the child and other able-bodied members of the family who were neglected as a result.

The report quotes the case history of an intelligent six year old boy whose performance at school was far below his I.Q. potential because of the lack of interest and care given to him by his mother who was intensely wrapped up in over-protecting his three-year-old spastic brother.

When interviewed, the father had said that he had noticed that the able-bodied child had become apathetic and withdrawn because he could never command his mother's attention. The family never went on holiday because of the mother's fear of disturbing the spastic child — and seldom went out for the day.

Such situations, says the report, could be assisted considerably if more pre-school places were available for handicapped children. The mother would see that the handicapped child could mix happily with able-bodied children and that other people could care satisfactorily for him. It would also give her some respite from worry and more free time to give to the rest of the family.

The Report's conclusions...

- **There is an immediate need for the provision of a network of pre-school units which include the allocation af a percentage of places for children of varying handicaps alongside able-bodied children. Special programmes for the handicapped children in this group may be necessary.**
- **In order to achieve this, there is a strong case for the formation of parental pressure groups to add their voices to the already growing volume of opinion urging the Department of Education and Science to give freedom to Local Education Authorities to set up nursery school units, according to local needs.**
- **The Spastics Society urges the Secretary of State for Education and Science to provide immediate details of her promised priority plans to expand the nursery education sector.**
- **In order to find the money necessary to institute a suitable programme consideration should be given to cutting EXCESS expenditure on libraries, hostels and coffee bars for students, who in most cases would be content with less lavish facilities than are sometimes provided.**
- **The Minister is invited to consider that, while the cost of keeping one child full-time in a nursery is approximately £202 a year, the cost of keeping a handicapped child in a special school amounts to at least £1,100 a year, and in some cases, considerably more.**

A new library for Oakwood

TWO years of hard, unselfish work by members of the Colchester Colne Round Table reached a triumphant conclusion on Sunday, October 29th when the Marchioness of Tavistock opened the new library at The Spastics Society's Oakwood Further Education Centre, in Kelvedon, Essex.

Oakwood, which caters for 20 severely handicapped students of above average intelligence, has long been in need of a library.

Members of the Colchester Colne Round Table not only mounted a fund raising campaign to build it but gave up much of their valuable spare time at wekends to do all the hard labouring jobs involved — such as humping bricks and building materials, mixing cement, and painting.

An architect member, Mr. Robin Beacham, drew up the designs and also supervised the building at each stage.

Oakwood's students turned up in force for the official opening to express a hearty vote of thanks for this valuable aid to their studies.

The Marchioness of Tavistock presents a silver tankard to architect Robin Beacham, member of the Colchester Colne Round Table, who designed the new Oakwood library. Mr. Chris Sorrell, Chairman of the Round Table, looks on.

Splashes from the Spastics pool

A welcome surprise in the form of a cheque for £2,000 for Mr. Frederick Twiddell, Chairman of the East London Spastics Society, when he attended a meeting of 300 Pool collectors at the Poplar Civic Theatre. The cheque was presented by Jack Howarth (Albert Tatlock of "Coronation Street" fame) on behalf of the Good Neighbours Trust. The money will help to buy equipment for the Society's new premises.

"On tour" to meet collectors

THE programme of meetings for Spastics Pool collectors is now well under way and the get-togethers are proving a great success. Following the visit of the Top Ten team to Derby and Nottingham, events have been held at Cambridge, Bedford, London, Skegness, Scunthorpe and Peterborough. Our pictures show some of the visitors who came along to meet the team from the Bristol headquarters and who added to the excitement and enjoyment of the various occasions.

ABOVE: Mrs. I. Fagg of Arlesey, Beds., receiving her cheque for £8,000 from Don Long, Director, Top Ten Promotions. Also in the picture are members of Mrs. Fagg's family who joined her for the big occasion.

LEFT: Jill Learner and Lynn Johnson, of Top Ten Promotions, share a joke with the residents at the Lincolnshire Spastics Centre, Scunthorpe. The Top Ten Promotions team visited the centre at the invitation of the Warden, Mr. D. Hazleton, on the morning following the Scunthorpe collectors' evening on November 7. BELOW: Mrs. Joyce Smith, a member of The Spastics Society's Executive Council, presents the keys of a Vauxhall Viva de luxe to Mr. and Mrs. Tillmon of Salisbury, Wilts.

ABOVE: Lucky collectors Mr. and Mrs. Barranca from Hertfordshire, discussing their recent good fortune with Ted Bartlett (centre) of Top Ten Travel Ltd. They received £403 as bonus on the £8,000 dividend win by Mrs. I. Fagg of Arlesey, plus a share of the third dividend worth £251.88. Our picture was taken at the Bedford get-together at the Corn Exchange.

RIGHT: Mrs. F. Sheffield, of Eye, Peterborough, being congratulated by (left) Don Long, director, and (right) John Pritchard, public relations officer for Top Ten Promotions Ltd. She won the first prize of a Vauxhall Victor in the recent Motor Show competition for Spastics Pool supporters. The picture was taken at the Peterborough meeting for collectors on November 8.

BOTTOM RIGHT: "Oh, they're real, then," was the comment being made by collector George Needham as he received £40—his share of the collectors' club bingo, from George Abbott (centre) and area supervisor, Harold Bramley (right).

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Pigeon auction cash flies high over target

NEARLY 1,000 pigeon fanciers converged on St. Pancras Assembly Rooms on Saturday, November 18, for the 8th International Pigeon Sale in aid of The Spastics Society. Some had travelled through the night from various parts of Britain to get to the sale in good time, a number had flown in from the Continent, but one party chalked up more mileage than most—a group of 55 enthusiasts from all over America, here to meet their British counterparts and also to bid for some of the 60 birds that had been sent over by top American fanciers.

Dr. Bernard Tomasetti, of Philadelphia, explained that they could not buy these birds in their own country, as the breeders had promised them to the auction, so they had to come over here to bid for them!

The American visitors came from New York, California, Maine, New Jersey, even Honolulu, and quite a few wives had come along to enjoy the trip.

A tremendous reception was given to former heavyweight boxing champion, Henry Cooper, O.B.E., who opened the sale by auctioning two pairs of boxing gloves donated by the National Sporting Club, and signing copies of his autobiography. Then he handed over to Wally Pope, who runs a corn merchant's business in London's East End and who has been organising and conducting the pigeon auction in aid of the Society's funds since 1964.

Wally once again showed the fantastic stamina and lung-power that have become his trademark. Through more than eight hours of non-stop talking he coaxed, cajoled, bullied and pleaded, and despite the freeze, squeeze and what-have-you, by the end of the evening the giant barometer on the stage had clocked up a magnificent total well in excess of the target of £4,000.

The top price paid for a pigeon at the auction was £240 for an Irish national champion hen bird donated by the famous breeder Louis Massarella, and other top-flight birds fetched over £100 each.

Wally Pope, in thanking pigeon fanciers for their help, said: "In spite of the fact that the season has been hard and trying, and many have suffered heavy losses, once again fanciers have excelled themselves and presented me with pigeons of superb quality to sell in the cause of charity."

The Society's administrative arrangements were organised by Mr. Peter Jordan, head of appeals projects, backed by an enthusiastic team of helpers from the Society.